

the strings. It is also clear that element 50 does not cover "substantially an entire front surface of a stringed instrument body."

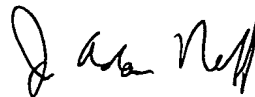
Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 is in error and should be withdrawn. Claim 15 is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 10.

* * *

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 30, 2008

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